

IN THE CLAIMS

Claim 1. (Currently Amended) A premix composition for clarifying beer effectively in a single-step process, without compactation, consisting essentially of, [comprising,] by weight,

(a) about [40% to about 90%] 70% of silica xerogel having less than [10%] 5% water therein, and a particle size in the dry state as defined by its mean volume average diameter, Mv, of about 5 to about 30 μ , and

(b) about [10% to about 60%] 30% of crosslinked polyvinylpyrrolidone having a particle size in the dry state of about 10 to about 50 μ , wherein the particle size of (a) is less than the particle size of (b) and the particle size of a water slurry of 10 wt.% of the premix composition is about 50 μ .

Claims 2 through 11. (Cancelled with this Amendment)

Claim 12. (Currently Amended) A process of stabilizing beer [or wine beverages] which comprises [(a)] treating beer [said beverage] with [an agitated] the aqueous flocculated slurry of [the composition of claim 1, and (b)] claim 18 and filtering the thus-treated [beverage] beer.

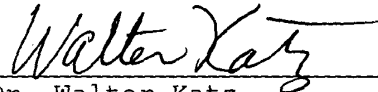
Claims 13 through 17. (Cancelled with this Amendment)

Continuation Application of Serial No. 09/079,539

Claim 18. (Currently Amended) A stable, flocculated aqueous slurry [of the premix composition of claim 1] for homogeneously dosing and clarifying beer effectively in a single-step process, without compactation, consisting essentially of, by weight, (a) about 5% to about 20% of a premix composition of about 70% of silica xerogel having less than 5% water therein, and having a particle size in the dry state as defined by its mean volume average diameter, Mv, of 5 to 30 μ , and (b) about 30% of crosslinked polyvinylpyrrolidone, having a particle size in the dry state of about 10 to about 50 μ ; wherein the particle size of (a) is less than the particle size of (b) and the particle size of a water slurry of 10 wt.% of the premix composition is about 50 μ ; and 80% to 95% water.

Claims 19 through 24. (Cancelled with this Amendment)

Respectfully submitted,



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